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SUBJECT: CHADIAN PRESIDENT MAKES MINOR CABINET CHANGES

REF: NDJAMENA 104

SUMMARY

¶1. (U) Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno made slight changes June 6 in his Cabinet, bringing on two new ministers, eliminating one and reassigning other ministers and responsibilities. No top-line officials in major ministries -- Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice, Interior, Infrastructure, Finance -- were affected by the President's reshuffle.

CABINET CHANGES

¶2. (U) The following details the President's June 6 Cabinet reshuffle:

-- Mahamat Ahmat Karambal became the new Minister of Mines and Geology, replacing Mahamat Ali Abdallah. Abdallah is the only official actually ousted from the government in this shuffle. Although he is considered to be very close to President Deby's Zaghawa clan, human rights organization finger him as the architect of the government's methods of fighting against Chadian rebels in February 2008, which entailed human rights abuses.

-- Bechir Okormi moved from his post as Minister of Livestock and Animal Resources to become Deputy Minister of Defense. Okormi replaces Hassan Aldjineidi, the former rebel leader appointed head of the Chadian National Army (ANT) last month.

-- Moukhtar Moussa, another newcomer to the government, became Minister of Livestock and Animal Resources. Moussa had most recently been President Deby's representative to MINURCAT, the UN peacekeeping mission in Chad and CAR.

-- The President swapped the positions of Fatime Issa Ramadan and Mahamat Mamadou Addy. Ramadan had been Deputy Minister of Microfinance and Poverty Reduction, while Addy had been Minister of State for Agriculture in Charge of Food Safety.

-- Tahir Sougoudi gained responsibility for all water resources, not just hydropower, under the newly combined Ministry of Water. Minister Ali Souleyman Dabye, who lost the Water portfolio, now oversees just the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries.

COMMENT

¶3. (U) President Deby's previous Cabinet reshuffle occurred March
¶23. His June 6 actions are less significant than the March changes,
and will have no discernible impact on foreign relations. Contrary
to the situation in March, when the National Assembly was
questioning the accomplishments of the Prime Minister's one-year-old
government, the GOC is on a high from the May 7 victory over rebel
forces.

¶4. (U) Minimize considered.

BREMNER